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MEMORANDUM

April 16, 1964

TO: Mr. W. David Slawson

FROM: Mr. Burt W. Griffin

RE: Interview with Dr. Burton C. Einspruch, Dallas, Texas, (3:00 to 4:00 P.M. Monday, April 13, 1964).

Secret Service Agent William Patterson and I spoke with Dr. Einspruch at Parkland Hospital. Dr. Einspruch, a psychiatrist, stated that he has treated Miss Odio since approximately April 1963 and that he saw her on the average of once a week from the beginning of that period until the President was assassinated.

He had first indicated to us that the rumors about Miss Odio's love affairs were false. Later, however, he did state that the story we had heard about her affair with a Puerto Rican law professor, is true. He also stated that Miss Odio did date Leonard Marcus, although he does not think the affair was as great as Mrs. Connell indicated to us. (It should be pointed out that Mrs. Connell also believed that Sylvia Odio was exaggerating her affair with Mr. Marcus.) Dr. Einspruch further stated that he did not believe that the affair with Father Mac Chann was as serious as we were led to believe by Mrs. Connell. We did not press him on this matter, however.

Dr. Einspruch described Miss Odio as coming from a very high social position in Cuba. He stated that she had been educated for 5 years in Philadelphia, that she had written some stories which had been published in Latin American journals, and that she composes poetry. He described her as a beautiful brilliant, well-spoken, charming woman. Dr. Einspruch confirmed the stories Mrs. Connell had given us concerning the anti-Castro activities of Miss Odio's father. He stated that Miss Odio's father had organized an anti-Castro group while he was in prison in Cuba. Dr. Einspruch further stated that Miss Odio has two brothers, two sisters and four children with her in Dallas. She also has a brother, Cesare Odio in Miami. Miss Odio's ex-husband, Guillermo Hemera, is believed to be living in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

In describing Miss Odio's relationships with Dallas Cubans, Dr. Einspruch stated that she was never really part of the Cuban community but that her real place was at the very top of the social ladder among American Dallas socialites. He stated that her social position in Dallas results from having exploited her father's business contacts in the United States. He confirmed Mrs. Connell's statement that Miss Odio had worked for a while at Neiman-Marcus.

In describing Miss Odio's personality, Dr. Einspruch stated she is given to exaggeration but that all the basic facts which she provides are true. He stated that her tendency to exaggerate is an emotional type, characteristic of many Latin-American people, being one of degree rather than basic fact. He stated that Miss Odio is friendly with two Cuban psychiatrists. He said that, in general, Cuban activities in Dallas center around the church, but he did not describe the extent of Miss Odio's participation.

Dr. Einspruch stated that he had great faith in Miss Odio's story of having met Lee Harvey Oswald. He stated that, in the course of psychotherapy, Miss Odio told him that she had seen Oswald at more than one anti-Castro Cuban meeting. One of these meetings was apparently at her house, he believed, and Miss Odio's sister also saw Oswald at the house. Dr. Einspruch says that Miss Odio reported to him that Oswald made inflammatory comments about Cuba. The term "inflammatory" is Dr. Einspruch's and he could not clearly indicate what it was that Oswald had said. In fact, I got the impression these comments were pro-Castro.

I asked Dr. Einspruch about the blackout Miss Odio had on November 22, 1963. He stated that on that occasion he did not treat Miss Odio. Miss Odio was handled then by a general practitioner, Dr. Louis Shlipac, of Irving, Texas. Dr. Shlipac was the physician for the company at which Miss Odio was then employed. Dr. Einspruch did not know whether or not Oswald's capture was the precipitating factor in the blackout.

I asked Dr. Einspruch if he believed that Miss Odio would give information which would be harmful to her Cuban friends. He stated that he did not. Previously, he had stated to me that he thought that Miss Odio and all of the local Cubans were afraid that they would be blamed for the Kennedy assassination. It had been Dr. Einspruch's belief prior to our interview that such a fear was what precipated Miss Odio's blackout on November 22. However, he stated to me that he never questioned her on the particulars of this blackout. He also stated that the period just before the assassination of the President was one of great anxiety for Miss Odio. I did not question him as to the basis of that anxiety since he initially stated to me that he did not wish to violate the doctor-patient relationship in our interview. Nevertheless, I should add that at the end of our interview Dr. Einspruch offered to obtain any information that we desired from Miss Odio if she proved reluctant with us.

In pursuing the question of Miss Odio's possible reluctance to give information that would hurt her Cuban friends, I asked Dr. Einspruch why it was that Miss Odio might have told Mrs. Connell about her knowledge of Lee Oswald. He stated that Mrs. Connell, at the time of the President's assassination, was Miss Odio's closest friend in Dallas. He stated, however, that their relationship had begun to cool at that time. He stated that Sylvia Odio had slept at the Connell house on more than one occasion.

I drew the inference that it may have been possible that Miss Odio wished to confide in Mrs. Connell as a means of cementing their deteriorating relationship. Dr. Einspruch observed that he thought the anxiety which Miss Odio felt after the assassination may have caused her to tell Mrs. Connell about Oswald and that that episode was one of lack of self-control. It should be emphasized that at all times Dr. Einspruch felt that the story about Lee Oswald was completely true.

In describing Miss Odio's relationship with Mrs. Connell and other persons in Dallas, Dr. Einspruch observed that there may have been a certain amount of jealousy between Miss Odio and Mrs. Connell. He stated that it was his understanding that Mrs. Connell had had a few affairs of her own, although these were not subjects of notoriety in the community and were only known to some of his colleagues in the psychiatric profession. He felt that Mrs. Connell may have cooled on Miss Odio because Miss Odio was more of a social success than Mrs. Connell. Dr. Einspruch stated that Miss Odio had unquestionably passed Mrs. Connell on the Dallas social ladder. He reiterated that Miss Odio was at the very top. He emphasized this by stating that Miss Odio's closest friends in Dallas now were the John Rogers family. It was my understanding that this family owns Texas Instruments, although Agent Patterson told me it was his understanding that the family owned Texas Industries. Apparently, Miss Odio stayed with the Rogers family after her hospitalization in connection with the Kennedy assassination. The exact timing of her stay with the Rogers family, is, however, not entirely clear to me.

At the conclusion of our interview, Dr. Einspruch offered to be of any assistance that we might desire in connection with Miss Odio. I got the understanding he would use his position as a psychiatrist to encourage her to give us all the information that we needed. He told me that he had an appointment with her at 8 AM on Tuesday morning, April 14, that he would mention that he had spoken with us. Dr. Einspruch feels that he has Miss Odio's complete confidence.

So she knows already!